

**Washington, D.C.** - U.S. Representatives Silvestre Reyes and Ciro Rodriguez are proud to announce the first round approval of millions of dollars in Federal funding for El Paso County. The \$4.29 million in funding for El Paso County is for the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge in Fabens, TX, included today in the fiscal year 2008 Financial Services Appropriations bill.

"I greatly appreciate the hard work and leadership that Congressman Rodriguez has shown on this critical project," said Reyes. "This funding is an important and concrete step in what has been an eight-year endeavor of working with the State Department and securing the Presidential permit to create this new port of entry. I am excited by the major economic impact on the I-10 corridor and the region as a whole."

"Working closely with my friend and colleague Congressman Reyes, we've been able to fund this very important project for El Paso County," said Congressman Rodriguez. "The Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge is vital to sustaining international trade and economic expansion in El Paso County. That is why, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I worked hard to get this project funded, not just for my district, but for the entire region."

In 2002, Congressman Reyes was instrumental in passing a resolution through the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that allowed the General Services Administration to study the establishment of bridge infrastructure at Fabens/Caseta and paved the way for a Presidential permit to be issued for the project.

The \$4.29 million for the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge in the Financial Services Appropriations bill is directed for the construction of a federal border inspection station on a new six-lane bridge in Fabens, TX. The bridge replaces the existing obsolete single lane bridge and the new station will be used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The House Committee on Appropriations today approved by voice vote the Financial Services Appropriations supplemental report, which included funds for the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge project. All project funds included in the supplemental report are subject to final approval by the House.

Congressman Reyes is Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

and a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee. Congressman Rodriguez is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

###